

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 L-03 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 AGR-05 COME-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:WWWOODBURY:BAL

APPROVED BY IO:PDWYMAN

EB/IFD/ODF:FTHOMAS

AID/PPC/IA/UNR:GWEVANS

AID/PPC/PEA/TP:KJAY

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P 122346Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, EAID

SUBJECT:30TH UNGA: AGENDA ITEM 65 - MID-TERM REVIEW AND
APPRAISAL - COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION - FURTHER ACTION:
PART IV

REF: STATE 266010

1. PARA 3 (33, NEW DRAFT) -- THE U.S. GENERALLY SUPPORTS
DIVERSIFICATION EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO LDC COMMODITY PROB-
LEMS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT DIVERSIFICATION SHOULD BE
A PART OF THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND THE USE OF LIMITED DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES
SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES RATHER THAN
TIED TO PARTICULAR COMMODITIES. A SPECIFIC FUND FOR DIVERS-
IFICATION THUS HAS NO PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO COMMODITY
AGREEMENTS AND IT WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE ALREADY EXTREMELY
COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. PARA 6 (34, NEW DRAFT) SUPPORTS INTENSIVE RESEARCH IN NATURAL PRODUCTS FACING COMPETITION FROM SYNTHETICS. THIS SUGGESTION IS SIMILAR TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL MADE AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION FOR AN ORGANIZATION TO COORDINATE AND FINANCE RESEARCH INTO QUESTIONS OF NON-FOOD AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY PRODUCTS. ALTHOUGH QUOTED IN TERMS OF "SPECIAL ENCOURAGEMENT," THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE PARA COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PREJUDGING THE RELATIVE MERIT OF SYNTHETICS OVER NATURAL PRODUCTS AND WOULD THEREFORE PREFERABLY BE OMITTED, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE MEANING OF "SPECIAL ENCOURAGEMENT" IS AMBIGUOUS.

3. PARA 9 (36, NEW DRAFT) IMPLIES THAT AID FLOWS HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST DETRIMENTAL TO NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. IT FAILS TO RECOGNIZE THAT AID PROGRAMS ARE UNDERTAKEN ONLY AT THE REQUEST OF THE RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT AND ONLY WITH ITS APPROVAL.

4. PARA 10 (37, NEW DRAFT) -- WE AGREE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS TO PROMOTE THE TRANSFER OF MORE RESOURCES TO THE LDCS AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EFFORTS. THE U.S. PROPOSED A MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE IN THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION - A DEVELOPMENT SECURITY FACILITY TO HELP PROTECT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AGAINST INSTABILITY IN THEIR EXPORT EARNINGS. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, AGREE THAT TRANSFER OF RESOURCES SHOULD "COMPENSATE FOR DECLINE IN TERMS OF TRADE." THIS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO ACCEPTING THE CONCEPT OF INDEXATION; THE U.S. HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT DOES NOT SUPPORT SUCH A PROPOSAL.

5. PARA 12 (40, NEW DRAFT) -- USUN SHOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE THE CONCEPT OF PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS FOR COMMODITIES AND SEEK TO SUBSTITUTE THE CONCEPT OF PRODUCER/CONSUMER COOPERATIVE EFFORTS FOR ALL KEY COMMODITIES. THE IDEA OF A COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION AMONG PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS IS EQUALLY BAD FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

6. PARA 14 (42, NEW DRAFT) PROPOSES THAT UNCTAD IV ESTABLISH A GNP TARGET FOR ASSISTANCE TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT IN ADDITION A PROPORTION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE LDCS. AS WITH OTHER SUGGESTED TARGETS, THE U.S. CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL BECAUSE THE TARGET LEVELS BEING DISCUSSED WOULD NECESSITATE INCREASES IN OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND A MAJOR SHIFT IN OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES. A TARGET OF 0.05 PERCENT OF GNP WAS MEN-

TIONED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR DIRECT SUPPORT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE TARGET THEY PROPOSED FOR THE PROPORTION OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY R AND D AIMED AT SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF LDCS WAS 10 PERCENT OF R AND D EXPENDITURES. DISCUSSION OF SUCH MAJOR RESEARCH RESOURCE FLOWS OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OR OBJECTIVES SEEMS POINTLESS.

7. PARA 21 (49, NEW DRAFT) CONTAINS A GENERAL STATEMENT CALLING FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEM OF THE LANDLOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE TWO GROUPS OF COUNTRIES REPRESENT UNIQUE AND SPECIAL CATEGORIES FOR PURPOSES OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, THE WORDING IN PARA 21 IS GENERAL ENOUGH TO BE ACCEPTABLE. FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THIS QUESTION SEE UNGA POSITION PAPER, AGENDA ITEM 123 ON THE LANDLOCKED (UNEC NO. 637). SIMILARLY, PARA 23 (51, NEW DRAFT) REFERS TO THE "HANDICAPS OF THEIR GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED POSITIONS" WHICH IMPLIES A DIRECT RELATION WITH GEOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING. ALSO, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO AGREE TO BE GUIDED BY FUTURE UNSPECIFIED RESOLUTIONS IN NUMEROUS OTHER BODIES, AS THIS PARA SUGGESTS.

8. PARA 26 (57, NEW DRAFT) DEALING WITH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, DISPLAYS A BIAS IN ITS IMPLICATION THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR ARE REQUESTED TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ORDER THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN ACHIEVE CERTAIN FOOD PRODUCTION OBJECTIVES. THIS IGNORES THE FACT THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE REFLECTED RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS ON THE PART OF BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO RAISING AVERAGE LEVELS OF FOOD PRODUCTION OF THE LDCS OVER THE LONGER TERM. AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS THE EXTERNAL PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND FINANCING BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, IS THE NEED OF MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO UNDERTAKE NECESSARY INTERNAL ECONOMIC REFORMS IN ORDER TO GIVE ADEQUATE PRODUCTION INCENTIVES TO ALL SEGMENTS OF THEIR FARM POPULATIONS. USUN SHOULD ATTEMPT TO RESTORE BALANCE TO THIS PARA IF WE ARE TO ACCEPT IT.

9. PARA 27 (58, NEW DRAFT) CALLS FOR MEASURES TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, SALINIZATION, AND LOCUSTS. THE U.S. IS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF LDCS WHICH BY DEFINITION REQUIRES THE REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO INCREASED PRODUCTION, AND USAID HAS IN FACT TAKEN

THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS. IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE, HOWEVER, TO PUT THIS QUESTION IN GENERAL TERMS OF ASSISTING IN THE REMOVAL OF ALL SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, RATHER THAN TO SINGLE OUT A FEW SPECIAL ONES. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE268567
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WWWOODBURY:BAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750394-0529
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751152/aaaabvde.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 266010
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 0TH UNGA: AGENDA ITEM 65 - MID-TERM REVIEW AND APPRAISAL - COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION - FURTHER ACTION
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, US, UNGA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006